

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A sling assembly for supporting an arm of a user, which sling assembly comprises a support portion for being worn by the user, a sling portion for supporting the arm of the user, and fastener means for fastening the sling portion to the support portion, characterised in that the fastener means being is a releasable fastener means for enabling the sling portion to be fastened and unfastened with respect to the support portion for exercise purposes with the sling portion still being worn, the sling portion does not extend around the elbow of the arm and thereby restrict elbow movement whereby elbow problems are prevented from developing when the sling assembly is worn for extended periods of time, and the fastener means is a single fastener means for one-handed one-time operation by the user.

2. (original) A sling assembly according to claim 1 and including adjuster means for adjusting the sling portion with respect to the support portion and thereby to enable the arm of the user to be supported in an optimum comfortable position.

3. (previously presented) A sling assembly according to claim 1 in which the fastener means and the adjuster means are integrally formed with each other.
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4. (previously presented) A sling assembly according to claim 1 in which the fastener means and the adjuster means are separately formed from each other.
5. (previously presented) A sling assembly according to claim 1 in which the support portion is a harness.
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6. (original) A sling assembly according to claim 5 in which the harness has a ring portion for fitting over a head of the user and being worn around the neck of the user.
7. (previously presented) A sling assembly according to claim 1 in which the support portion is a jacket.
8. (original) A sling assembly according to claim 7 in which the jacket has one sleeve only.
9. (previously presented) A sling assembly according to claim 1 in which the sling portion is a folded sheet member.

10. (previously presented) A sling assembly according to claim 1 in which the fastener means comprises a plurality of interlocking plastics members which press together and pull apart.

11. (previously presented) A sling assembly according to claim 1 in which the fastener means comprises at least one press stud.

12. (new) A sling assembly according to claim 1 in which the sling assembly does not engage an upper part of the arm such as to restrict movement of the shoulder of the user from which the arm extends thereby to allow shoulder movement and prevent shoulder problems developing when the sling assembly is worn for extended period of time.

13. (new) A sling assembly according to claim 2 in which the adjuster means is an adjuster means which extends obliquely with respect to the longitudinal axis of the user whereby the shoulder of the user from which the arm extends is given support in a direction towards the user's body.